

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, November 15, 2009

“Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes”

Mark 12:38

The title of this morning’s message is, *“Beware of Bible Teachers.”* Now, I can imagine that for some, that sounds like an awfully strange sermon title. But really, that’s what Jesus is saying here, *“Beware of the scribes!”* Well, who were the scribes? They were the respected Bible teachers of Israel. They began as part of a Bible teaching movement back to the time of Ezra the Scribe in Nehemiah 8:1 (some time around 450 BC). They were not liberal men. In fact, just the opposite, they were theological conservatives! They believed the Bible. They taught the Bible. People looked to them for guidance in understanding the Bible. And yet by the time of Christ, they had gone terribly astray

Why? According to Jesus in this morning’s passage (Mk 12:35-40), it boils down to two things:

- (1) *Despite their great wealth of biblical knowledge, they failed to understand the truth about Christ*
- (2) *Because of their great pride, they’d come to love the spotlight of their position more than the truth about God.*

But you understand, don’t you, that this is not just an ancient problem. Indeed, I believe one of the reasons these words of Jesus have been recorded for us in Scripture is because this warning is still relevant today. In every age of Christianity there are men who claim to speak for God, but who, in fact, lead many astray. Isn’t that why Jesus warned us in Matthew 24:11 that *“many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.”*

So this morning we’re going to learn to *Beware of Bible Teachers*, To be wary of men who presume to teach Scriptures without an adequate knowledge of Christ, and who do not reflect Jesus in His humble, submissive Spirit. May God give us eyes to discern truth from error for the joy of our own souls.

Seeking Him Who is True,

Pastor Scott